AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1185 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1933 — FRANK MORRISON, Secretary — VOL. 23, NO. 43

ONE TRUTH DISCOVERED IS IMMORTAL.—BENTHAM.

Editorials

SOCIAL JUSTICE LEGISLATION

The twelve-point program of social justice legislation which William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, urges all subordinate organizations, representing more than five million workers, to support, is both an expression of high idealism and an example of pragmatism as applied to labor legislation.

The twelve points follow:

Workmen's compensation laws.
Unemployment insurance.
Anti-injunction legislation.
Child labor Laws.
Ratification of the Child Labor Amendment to the Federal Constitution.
Minimum wage laws for women and minors.
Improved standards for teachers in public schools.
Shorter work day and work week for workers in public and private employment.
Safety legislation.
Inspection and sanitary legislation.
Convict labor laws.

In the language of Mr. Green, in his letter urging all affiliated bodies to use every effort to secure the enactment of the program into law: "The measures are all important, as they relate to the social and economic life of the working people in the different States and throughout the Nation."

The necessity of this legislation to protect the economic interests of the workers of America is so apparent that the entire program, which has been drafted and endorsed by conventions of the American Federation of Labor, should be accepted by all progressive persons as an immediate goal without close scrutiny and consideration.

A NOTABLE VICTORY

The day-to-day achievements of organized labor in protecting their members from victimization often remain unknown outside the immediate circle where the workers are benefitted. Many of these achievements merit larger publicity. One of them is the victory won by the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor for forty-two molders who were discharged by the Glenwood Range Company of Taunton, Mass., on April 27, 1933.

Union officials alleged that the American Mutual Insurance Company forced the Range Company to dismiss the men because of their age and put up a vicious fight against the victimization accompanied with a demand for wages for lost time. After six months' struggle, forty-one of the molders (one having died in the interim) were paid $18 per week for lost wages, amounting to $17,760, and returned to work with all of their rights under the workmen's compensation law reserved.

Robert J. Watt, secretary-treasurer and legislative representative of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor, who handled the case, expresses the opinion that the terms of the settlement "will have a tendency to prevent the discharge of men because they have grown old in industry."

N. Y. FIRE FIGHTERS WIN EIGHT-HOUR DAY

New York.—The Board of Estimate branch of the Municipal Assembly passed the bill, previously adopted by the Board of Aldermen, providing an eight-hour day for city firemen, beginning on January 1, 1935.

Vincent J. Kane, president of the Uniformed Firemen's Association, affiliated with the International Association of Fire Fighters, declared that the change could be accomplished for as little as $100,000 at the beginning. The Citizens' Budget Commission, which opposed the bill, estimated that it would entail necessary the addition of 2,000 firemen and computed the increased cost at $7,500,000 for the first year.

Under the law the Mayor is required to hold a public hearing before deciding whether to sign the measure. Mayor LaGuardia's appointment with a demand for wages for lost time. After six months' struggle, forty-one of the molders (one having died in the interim) were paid $18 per week for lost wages, amounting to $17,760, and returned to work with all of their rights under the workmen's compensation law reserved.

Under the law the Mayor is required to hold a public hearing before deciding whether to sign the measure. Mayor LaGuardia's appointment as a member of the Board of Estimate may be considered as certain. During his campaign for Mayor he said he favored an eight-hour day for firemen, which he believed was in accordance with principles of the N.R.A.

The bill had the firm support of the American Federation of Labor. During the 1933 convention of the Federation, the New York Uniformed Firemen's Association was represented by William Green, president of the A. F. of L., with a handsome tribute to the membership of his work for the Fire Fighters of New York City in their efforts to secure the shorter work day. The tribute was made by Vincent J. Kane, president of the Association.

SAN JUAN STEVEDORES STRIKE FOR PAY BOOST

San Juan, Puerto Rico.—Striking stevedores have not up such a solid fight for wage increases that the shipping agents offered to recommend a 20 per cent pay boost to the head offices in New York for approval.

The agreement followed a conference with Acting Governor Horton, at which strikers' representatives flatly declined a 16 per cent advance.

Shipping company agents ordered steam ship office employees to unload the last Christmas ships, but their success was not so great as to arouse enthusiasm.

AFL Mobilizes Labor for Boycott Of German-Made Goods and Service

Green Declares Destruction of German Labor Movement and Persecution of German Leaders and Jews by Hitler and His Associates Justifies Ban on German Products Until the Barbarous Nazi Policy Is Ended.

Washington.—In a vigorous statement condemning the relentless persecution of trade unionists, social democrats, and Jews by Hitler's barbarous Nazi regime, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, called upon organized labor and its friends to mobilize for a militant prosecution of the boycott of German goods and service, decreed by the 1933 convention of the Federation, "until the German government recognizes the right of the working people of Germany to organize into bona fide, independent trade unions of their own choosing, and until German courts cease their inquisitorial policy of persecution of the Jewish people."

The mobilization call was sent to the hundreds of affiliated National and International Unions, State Federations of Labor, City Central Bodies, and Local Trade Unions, with the recommendation that committees be appointed to carry forward the nation-wide drive against the Nazi atrocities, which have received the unstinted condemnation of every civilized country.

Persecution of Workers Must Cease

"In declaring for a boycott of German-made goods and German service," Mr. Green said, "the American Federation of Labor recognizes the right of the German people to govern themselves and to formulate and adopt their own political policies and rule of life without interference from any other nation.

"Labor is therefore not fighting against any political order set up in Germany or against the German people. We are asking only that the annihilation of German trade unions shall cease and that the persecution of German working people, and of Jewish people merely because they are Jews, shall be terminated."

Asserting that "it is readily conceded that only a most unusual, extraordinary condition would call for such drastic action" as the boycott, Mr. Green gave the following trenchant account of Hitler's shameless destruction of the German labor movement and his barbarous persecution, including imprisonment in Nazi jails and torture, of German labor officials and their families:

Union Publications Suppressed

"One of the first official acts of the Hitler Government was the destruction of the labor and press.

"From the start the Nazi officials began a campaign of calumny and physical violence against the German workers.

"In the space of one week, from March 2nd to 10th, every labor union publication in the country was suppressed. The result was that the leaders of the trade unions were taken out cut off from all contact with the rank and file.

Nazi Troopers Raid Offices

"The Nazis did not stop there. Nazi storm troopers, aided and abetted by the police, began a series of raids upon offices of the various trade unions throughout the land.

"The storm troopers insisted first of all that the union officials display the swastika emblem in their windows.

"In numerous instances storm troopers emptied the cash registers and took the strike fund or whatever money they could lay their hands on.

Hitler Outlaws Unions

"Hardly a labor union in Germany but was visited by the Nazi troopers. In scores of cases the storm troopers took actual possession of the union headquarters, converting them into barracks. All this was done ostensibly 'in the interests of the Third Reich and the protection of the German workers.'

"On May 2nd the Hitler Government finally outlawed the General German Trade Union Federation, confiscated its property, arrested the prominent leaders, took over all the labor banks, and operatives and similar organizations, lock, stock and barrel.

"Every president of the 31 international unions comprising the General German Trade Union Association was arrested at the same time, and thrown into the general secretaries and clerical help.

Hundreds of Union Officials Jailed

"Among the prisoners were the two outstanding leaders of the association, Theodore Leipart and Wilhelm Grassman.

"In all several hundred union leaders were arrested that day, and hundreds more during the days that followed.

"For weeks the prisoners were kept in Nazi barracks, before being transferred to prisons specially established and ultimately banished to concentration camps.

"On May 3rd the billboards throughout the country were plastered with posters signalling the conquest of the German labor unions. The next day newspapers carried an official announcement to the effect that Dr. Ley had been appointed as Chief Commissar over all labor unions in Germany.

Women Victimized

"For days the wives of the imprisoned union leaders were unable to ascertain the whereabouts of their husbands or spouses. In their despair they could not even turn for help to the legal advisers of the union, because the legal advisers had also been arrested along with the other officials as enemies of the Third Reich.

"The unhappy wives ran from one police station to another beseeching aid, seeking information, but to no avail. Everywhere they were met with the same 'information' that their 'scoundrelly husbands would never leave the prisons alive.' They were given to understand that their husbands had been charged with embezzlement of trade union funds.

Taken to Nazi Barracks

"In a majority of cases the arrested union officials were taken not to the regular police station but to the Nazi barracks and placed in a dark cell.

"Among those who received such treatment were aforementioned Leipart and Grassman, the latter of whom is fairly well known in this country.

"Several years ago, it will be recalled, Grassman was a fraternal delegate to the German unions to the convention of the American Federation of Labor.

Forced to Sing Nazi Hymns

"Both Leipart and Grassman are elderly men; Leipart past 66, Grassman is 62. The two old men were forced to sing Nazi hymns. They were also compelled to spend hours in gymnastics.

"Leipart, who had been in the automobile accident and was not yet fully recovered, fainted time and again. Among the other prisoners was a trade unionist named Arona, who was forced at the point of a revolver by a Nazi guard master for the two elderly union leaders, marching around the court-yard for hours on end."

It 'is the factual indictment of the crimes of Hitler's dictatorship,' Mr. Green declared, which persuaded the American Federation of Labor to boycott German goods and service until the terrorism is ended and the right of the German workers to organize in bona fide trade unions is fully recognized by the German Government.

RAILWAY CONSOLIDATION WILL THROW THOUSANDS INTO UNEMPLOYED ARMY

Chicago, Ill.—Plans for railroad consolidation for "economy" purposes proposed by men who, it is charged, are interested in securing wholly unwarranted interest and dividend payments for those who own railroad securities and railroads were definitely condemned by the Railway Labor Executives Association in a session here as measures whose principal result would be to throw out of work thousands of railroad employes.

"Any coordination or consolidation program of wide scope," the plan proposed will insure increased unemployment to the extent of from 50,000 to 150,000 railway employes," the association declared.

There is no possibility of absorbing men deprived of work in new employments under present conditions when we have over 2,000,000 unemployed workers including over 800,000 unemployed railroaders.

Therefore, unless the government is prepared to assume the responsibility for supporting these additional unemployed and their dependents, the government cannot justify Federal assistance in creating this additional unemployment in the name of 'economy.' No dividend payment has yet been proposed to promote mass starvation as a means of economy.

"If any coordination or consolidation program is to be approved it must provide for the creation of additional employment to absorb the workers displaced.

Capital Reduction Necessary

"Any program designed to produce economies in railroad operations must include drastic and mandatory reductions for reducing the capital obligations of the railroads, particularly the fixed obligations of interest on funded debts, obligations or leases whereunder the interest is paid or dividends are guaranteed, directly or indirectly, and other fixed charges which now burden the railroads with financial obligations which cannot be and should not be met."

Interstate Trade in Convict Labor Goods Prohibited by Law in Seventeen States

Washington.—The unremitting efforts of the American Federation of Labor to eliminate its influence in favor of State use of convict labor goods and forbidding interstate commerce in them for the benefit of the organization of the A. F. of L. convict labor bill in 17 States, according to information made public at the Federation's headquarters here.

Twelve of the 17 States enacted the law in 1933, and it is confidently expected that the Ashurst-Sumners Act, which becomes effective on January 19, 1934, will persuade many more States to join the banner. The 12 that enabled such State to forbid the sale, within its own borders, of convict-made goods from other States.

The States now having laws in conformity with the Federal statute are: Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

After January 19, when the Federal Act becomes effective, no convict made goods can be shipped into these 12 States for sale in the open market. Creditable as this achievement is, labor officials point out that unless the laws of the State provide that none of their own convict made products shall be sold in the open market, they cannot forbid the sale of convict made goods from other States. State Federations of Labor in the States which have not yet enacted legislation providing for the State-use system are therefore urged to take forward special effort during the coming sessions of the legislatures to have this important measure written into the statutes.

It is expected that the restricted areas of the Ashurst-Sumners Act in 17 States which have already barred such products will speed up the adoption of the State-use system in the backward States.

The only real attack on the Hawes-Cooper Act ever recently made by the attorney general of Alabama, who asked the Supreme Court of the United States for an injunction restraining the 17 States from enforcing their convict labor laws, alleging the unconstitutionality of the Act. The case will be argued before the Supreme Court on January 9. Officials of the American Federation of Labor look for a favorable decision from the court denying the validity of Alabama's attempt to uphold convict labor competition with free labor.

During the past year contracts for shirts in Kentucky and Wyoming prisons were cancelled because the Hawes-Cooper Act would become effective during the life of the contracts.

MILLIONS ARE STILL JOBLESS, GREEN SAYS

Government Relief Work Provides Temporary Employment for Over 4,000,000, but Leaves 6,000,000 Totally Unemployed —Factory Owners Discharge 350,000 in November.

Washington.—At least six million workers are totally unemployed after allowing for a maximum of 4,000,000 temporarily employed by Federal relief projects, including the Civil Works Administration.

Industrial unemployment is increasing, factory owners having discharged 350,000 workers during November.

Some employers are deliberately dismissing their employes "to let the Government care for them."

These are the high spots in the review of the current unemployment situation by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, based on reports received from local unions affiliated with the A. F. of L.

"Both in November and the first part of December unemployment has increased," Mr. Green said. "It is not normal at this time of the year for men to be laid off, both from industry and industries, but labor had hoped that this would be all the unemployment caused by the Administration on creating jobs, lay-offs at the year end would be much smaller than usual.

"Instead, more were laid off from mid-October to mid-November this year than last year, and trade union figures for the first half of December show that gains in December unemployment has increased slightly more than last year.

"Trade union weighted figures show 22.8 per cent of membership unemployed in December compared to 22.0 in November and 21.7 in October.

"Unemployment is increasing faster than at any time since January.

Employers Increase Jobless

"These figures give the impression that industry is slackening in its efforts to create jobs and put men to work. Developments in November and December are in striking contrast to the steady employment gains from April to September when men went back to work by the million even though business was declining from July forward.

"Business observers are continually telling us that the recent gain in workers put to work by public works projects is largely responsible for the improvement at the year-end and the growing confidence in some quarters. But the figures from under business at such a critical time indicate downfall in the whole structure we have built with so much effort.

Six Millions Totally Unemployed

"Apparently some employers feel less responsibility for their men now that they know they are providing jobs for several millions. If they deliberately dump their men from payrolls now to let the Government care for them, then no one ever again have the right to protest against so-called Government interference in business?

"No one should forget that even with 4,000,000 on civil works and the equivalent more than 6,000,000 are still unemployed, without normal income and buying power. Civil works cannot increase buying power if industry lays men off while the Government employs them. We cannot hope to pull the ship of business of depression by slackening hold on the tow rope just as she begins to move.

330,000 Factory Workers Lose Jobs

"The worst lay-offs in November were in manufacturing, where over 330,000 lost their jobs. These factory lay-offs are much larger than in any normal year for which we have records; larger also than in any year since depression. It would be a serious matter, indeed, if the manufacturers of this country fail now to do their part. These factory lay-offs represent over 7% per cent increase in unemployment from October to November, which was in all about 350,000.

Government Jobs Relieve Suffering

"An increase in industrial unemployment from 10,132,000 in October to 10,482,000 in November is serious when we were it not for the jobs given under the Federal relief program, suffering would be much worse than it is.

"By the end of November, 252,000 were at work on public works projects, 1,242,000 on civil works and 303,000 on the conservation camps, a total of nearly 2,150,000, according to Labor Department figures. By the end of December, the Relief Administration estimates that 4,000,000 were at work under CWA. 2,000,000 of them have been taken from relief rolls, and given a more adequate income, and 2,000,000 were employed through the re-employment agencies.

"Last December 12,184,000 were out of work. Industry is giving about a million more jobs this December than last and the Government probably will least temporary work for about 4,600,000."

Unemployment Statistics

Mr. Green attached to his statement the A. F. of L. estimate of the number of unemployed by months from January, 1930, to November, 1933. In January, 1930, there were 12,100,000 unemployed; in March, 12,649,000; in July, 13,304,000; in August, 11,601,000; in October, 10,132,000; in November, preliminary, 10,702,000.

HITLER'S TERROR DRIVES 60,000 FROM GERMANY

New York.—James G. MacDonald, League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from Germany, declared on his arrival here that reports showed that at least 60,000 persons have fled to other countries to escape Hitler's persecution and that the number of refugees is increasing daily.

"It is for all of us, Jews and non-Jews alike, who believe in the fundamental principles of equality before the law and of racial toleration, so painfully established through the ages, to make the insurmountable effort to help the League of Nations contribute in the fullest possible measure to the settlement of the refugees in new homes where they will have opportunity to build a new life for themselves and to remain materially and culturally a new humanity."

SALES TAX OPPOSED BY RETAIL CODE HEAD

New York.—Grover A. Whalen, chairman of the New York City Retail Code Authority, knocked the proposed 3 percent State sales tax clear out of the ring in a letter to Seabury C. Mastick, chairman of the New York State Tax Commission for the Revision of the Tax Law.

"From the consumers' point of view," Mr. Whalen stated, "the sales tax is the most obnoxious form of taxation that exists. For the consumer, the sales tax is an income tax with a reverse twist. It taxes not according to ability to pay, which is the underlying principle of the income tax, but according to the people's consumptive requirements."

Referring to the $130,000,000 that would be raised from such taxation, Mr. Whalen pointed out that this actually would be taken away from New York City's consumer buying power. The diminishing of buying power on such a large scale, he said, would prove injurious to President Roosevelt's recovery program.

"The sales authority is composed of representative merchants of New York City and supervises the functioning of the retail code among 50,000 merchants.

Ickes Loans $500,000 to Provide 200 Subsistence Farms for Needle Workers

Washington.—A definite experiment in relieving unemployment from the stress of living conditions in large cities was inaugurated by Secretary of the Interior Ickes in the approval of the establishment of a "subsistence homestead" project in Pine River Township, N. J.

The homesteaders, consisting of 200 families, including about 1,000 people, will be selected from among Jewish needle workers in the unorganized clothing manufacturing area of New York City, with a few from Jersey City, Newark and Philadelphia.

Each homestead will cost $5,000, and will have an acre or more for a vegetable garden, fruit trees and a lawn. The purchaser will be required to make a down payment of $500, the balance to be amortized over a period of twenty years.

A factory building financed entirely by private funds will be erected in the community near the postoffice of Hightstown. This plan calls for enough private support of the factory to assure a definite cash income for each homestead. It is to be operated under an NRA code and will market its goods in New York.

Secretary Ickes announced that the Government would make a loan of $500,000 to the New York organization which sponsors the project, with the proviso that the board of directors shall include a representative of the Federal Subsistence Homesteads Corporation. Five other directors will be Benjamin Brown of New York City, one of the signators of the project; Morris Feinstone of New York, general secretary of the United Hebrew Trades; Fred Wallerstein, retired manufacturer; Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, and Elias Lieberman, vice president of the Workmen's Circle, a Jewish fraternal order with 80,000 members.

STARVATION WAGES PAID RAILROAD SECTION MEN; $6 TO $9 PER WEEK

Chicago, Ill.—Those who own and control the railways of the United States are paying starvation wages, running as low as 20 cents an hour and $6 per week, to section men, declared B. M. Fljozdal, president of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, in a statement to the Railway Labor Executives Association here.

Even these low earnings are reduced still lower, he pointed out, by the agreements between railroads and banks by which railway employes donate 10 per cent of their earnings to help the railroads pay interest to bondholders and dividends to stockholders.

"As a result of these starvation wage rates, part-time employment and the 10 per cent deduction, thousands of railway workers are failing to earn sufficient to keep body and soul together," he said.

"Living standards are being reduced to the point where the question of actual starvation faces the families of many railway employes, who are supporting the railroad executives," Mr. Fljozdal said.

He urged private ownership and management, such intolerable and inhuman conditions prevail, then social justice and economic welfare necessitate the Government's taking over the industry."

N. Y. UNION ASKS JOBS FOR LOCAL LABOR ON BRIDGE FINANCED BY U. S.

New York.—Two hundred granite workers belonging to the local union of the Granite Cutters' International Association of America, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, presented a joint plea to the Mayor and City Administration here, asking that the granite work on the bridge be done by members of the local union. The petition was presented by a member of a parade which included a truck carrying a two-ton block of white granite bearing the inscription, "We want the granite cut in New York City."

William Anderson, business agent of the local union, in a statement, stated that most of the local union members were unemployed and dependent on relief for support for themselves and their families. He said there were twenty local granite yards which should get the work, especially since the Federal Government's grant for construction of the bridge is for work in city rather than outside contractors.

Joseph Johnson, general manager, and George Colombo, Jr., counsel of the Bridge Authority, told the committee that arrangements to get alternative bids on the granite work, based on stone cut in New York City and elsewhere, and the differences in the bids were not too great, they said, the Authority would recommend that the local granite workers be favored.

Steel Workers Win Strike for NRA Right To Organize and Bargain Collectively

Dover, Ohio.—Twelve hundred employes of the Greer Steel Company and the Reeves Manufacturing Company here voted to end the strike against both companies when a committee, led by the officials of the two companies that they would employ all former employes without discrimination and bargain collectively with representatives of the workers in accordance with Section 7-A of the National Industrial Recovery Act.

The company officials also agreed to meet with any official of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers who may be chosen by the employes as their agent, and also promised to cease interfering with the right of the workers to unionize the plants.

No wage dispute was involved in the controversy, it was said, as the Amalgamated Association were organized here last summer. Officers of the unions advised that company officials repeatedly attempted to prevent their employes from organizing and discharged a large number of workmen on account of their union activities. Finally union officials accompanied by Organizer John McKeon, asked the officials of the companies to reinstate the discharged men. This request was refused. The local unions then declared a strike and picketed both plants, permitting none to go through except foremen and office workers, who were given passes to get through the lines.

City officials requested the intervention of the Conciliation Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor, which sent Fred Keighly and Robert Fox here to effect a settlement. After a number of conferences officials of both companies agreed to re-employ all discharged employes, except interfering with the workers' right to organize, and to meet with representatives of the workers' duly elected representatives of the employes.

The strike was settled in less than a week.

Social Insurance Held Solution of High Cost of Medical Care in United States

New York.—Social insurance as a solution of the high cost of medical care is gaining headway in the United States, it was stated in an interview with Dr. Isaac Max Rubinow, secretary of the "Saranac Village Sanatorium of Saranac Lake, N. Y., and author and founder of the American Medical Center of Paris, France.

Dr. Rubinow returned to France in 1917 as a member of the Rockefeller Foundation's commission to study the question of Tuberculosis, but completed a tour of the country in which he visited the principal medical centers.

In many States visited by him, Dr. Rubinow found that the problem of medical care was being solved by the establishment of some form of social insurance, which is the practice in most of the countries of Europe.

"The problem of medical care is not to obtain the proper medical and mental attention without being forced to go to charity and for the working out of a system that would be acceptable to the medical profession and to the average citizen.

"There is no question," Dr. Bruno said, "that some plan of social insurance will be adopted in the United States. The medical profession should recognize the inevitability of such a development and should cooperate with the authorities in the various States to work out a satisfactory plan, or the medical profession will be forced to act on their own initiative.

"The French scheme of social insurance, adopted by Parliament and now in operation, is a model for the rest of the world."

Green Charges Ford Violates NRA Collective Bargaining Guarantee

CHILD LABOR CAUSES ADULT UNEMPLOYMENT

Harrisburg, Pa.—In signing the bill which made Pennsylvania the twentieth State to ratify the child labor amendment to the Federal Constitution, Governor Pinchot characterized the measure as "a part of the forward movement in social legislation that is under way throughout the country."

"This is a great day in a great cause," he continued. "Because of Mrs. Pinchot's interest in eliminating the sweat shop and improving conditions of labor, I have a personal satisfaction in the victory.

"In Pennsylvania alone there are 1,000,000 unemployed and a definite percentage of them are without employment because of the employment of children."

Report to General Johnson Urges Prompt Government Action to Compel Observance of Employes' Legal Rights—Boycott of Ford Cars Suggested.

Washington.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, filed with the NRA charges that the Ford Motor Company had violated the collective bargaining provision of the National Recovery Act in connection with the strike at the concern's plant at Edgewater, N. J., with the urgent request that legal proceedings be taken to compel observance of the law.

The strike was called on September 25 by 1,600 members of Local No. 18618, United Automobile Workers of the A. F. of L., following the refusal of Neil S. Brown, superintendent of the Edgewater plant to recognize a committee of the employes who waited on him to present the workers' complaints. "Go back to your jobs in five minutes or I will discharge you and you will not be rehired at any time by the Ford Motor Company," was the response which Mr. Green's report alleges Brown gave the committee.

"I charge the Ford Motor Company with violation of Section 7-A of the National Industrial Recovery Act provides for collective bargaining," Mr. Green said.

Collective Bargaining Banned

"Neither before the strike, nor on September 25, the date on which the strike took place, were the employes of the Ford Motor Company permitted to engage in collective bargaining for the settlement of grievances and disputes through representatives of their own choosing, as provided for in the Industrial Recovery Act.

"Not only has the management of the Ford Motor Company refused to bargain collectively with its employes at Edgewater, N. J., as required by law, but in addition it has stated that its employes who stopped work for the purpose of redressing grievous wrongs can no longer maintain membership of the company and can only be reemployed through personal application and rehiring individually.

Company Challenges Government

"This attitude of the Ford Motor Company constitutes a challenge to the Government. Either the Government is supreme or the Ford Motor Company is outside the pale of the law and subject to its own corporate rules of procedure. It is inconceivable that the Government would surrender to the Ford Motor Company or any other corporation."

"Unbearable" Conditions

The brief submitted by Mr. Green, drawn up by J. Glenn Anderson, counsel for the workers' employes, asserted that the immediate occasion of the strike was that the Ford company refused to grant a "reasonable increase" for workers at Chester, Pa., and that "unbearable and illegal conditions" with the result that the Chester work was taken to Edgewater. But the brief stated that workers at Edgewater had been unbearable and getting continually worse. Wages in scores are worse it was said, included wages and hours with an average annual $900 income—and refusal of the employes to bargain collective bargaining.

Then it was made the following thirteen specific charges against the Ford company:

"1. That collective bargaining relative to abhorrent and unhealthy working conditions has been refused by the strikers.

Compelled to "Scab"

"2. That an attempt was made by the Company to get the workers at the Edgewater, N. J., plant to 'scab' for the Chester, Pa., plant.

"3. That the Edgewater workers were hired and had been unable to earn a living for two years prior to the strike.

"4. That a committee of them was given the alternative to get back to their jobs in five minutes or be discharged.

"5. That efforts to negotiate through formal and legal channels failed.

"6. That in answer to written demands of the workers, a printed and unsigned paper ignored the issue of collective bargaining.

"7. That the answer to a letter to Mr. Edsel Ford on November 9 he received under date of November 11 that the superintendent of the Edgewater plant had authority to act and hear any statements the committee desired to make, and that he would give proper consideration to what was said to Neil S. Brown, plant superintendent.

Employes Locked Out

"8. That a committee appointed by the strikers to collectively bargain with him was received in name only by Mr. Brown, superintendent of the Edgewater plant.

"9. That the credentials of the committee were questioned by Mr. Brown.

"10. That he refused to deal collectively with the strikers for their rehiring.

"11. That he agreed to bargain for the men, but not with them.

"12. That collective bargaining had actually been precluded by a virtual lockout.

"13. That the company refused to bargain also in reference to treatment given by foremen.

Government Complaint Urged

Mr. Green said he had requested General Hugh S. Johnson, Recovery Administrator, and Senator Robert F. Wagner, chairman of the National Labor Board, to take immediate action as they deemed necessary to compel the Ford Motor Company to comply with the collective bargaining provisions of the National Recovery Act, to confer with representatives of the workers' duly elected representatives of the employes to represent them in collective bargaining on such grievances as may exist, and to restore the striking employes to their former positions.

"The Government can utilize its legal machinery to effect collective bargaining between the Ford Motor Company and its employes," Mr. Green said. "It can deal with the Ford Motor Company just as it deals with any violator of the labor laws.

Boycott Suggested

"The American Federation of Labor can supplement such action as may be taken by the Government by advising the American labor movement of the attitude of the Ford Motor Company toward its employes and its refusal to comply with Section 7-A of the National Recovery Act relative to collective bargaining, so that working people and their friends throughout the United States may refuse to buy the Ford car until such time as the Ford Motor Company engages in collective bargaining in the case of the Edgewater, N. J., plant and deals fairly with them, as required by the National Recovery Act."